

**AUSTRALIAN NATIVE PLANTS SOCIETY**  
***CANBERRA REGION (INC)***



**Journal Vol. 17 No. 9**

ISSN 1447-1507

**March 2014**

Print Post Approved PP299436/00143

## Contents

Spring Walks 2013	Ros Cornish	1
Possumwood, <i>Quintinia sieberi</i>	Roger Farrow	12
Visit to Blayney/Bathurst	Ros Walcott	14
A plethora of Pomaderris: our local diversity hotspot	Roger Farrow	20
A story about Yetholme	Shirley Pipitone	28
Eremomophila crawl in South Australia	Lyndal Thorburn	30
Study Group Notes	Lesley Page	35
ANPS contacts and membership details		inside back cover

**Cover:** *Leptospermum 'Merinda'*; Photo: Glenn Pure

## Journal articles

The Journal is a forum for the exchange of members' and others' views and experiences of gardening with, propagating and conserving Australian plants.

All contributions, however short, are welcome. Contributions may be typed or handwritten, and accompanied by photographs and drawings.

Submit photographs as either electronic files, such as JPEGs, or prints. Set your digital camera to take high resolution photos. Please send JPEGs separately and not embedded in a document. If photos are too large to email, copy onto a CD and send it by post. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you would like your prints returned. If you have any queries please contact the editor.

Original text may be reprinted, unless otherwise indicated, provided an acknowledgement for the source is given. Permission to reprint non-original material and all drawings must be obtained from the copyright holder. The views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and are not necessarily the views and opinions of the Society.

The deadline dates for submissions are 1 February (for March edition), 1 May (June), 1 August (September) and 1 November (December). Send articles or photos to:

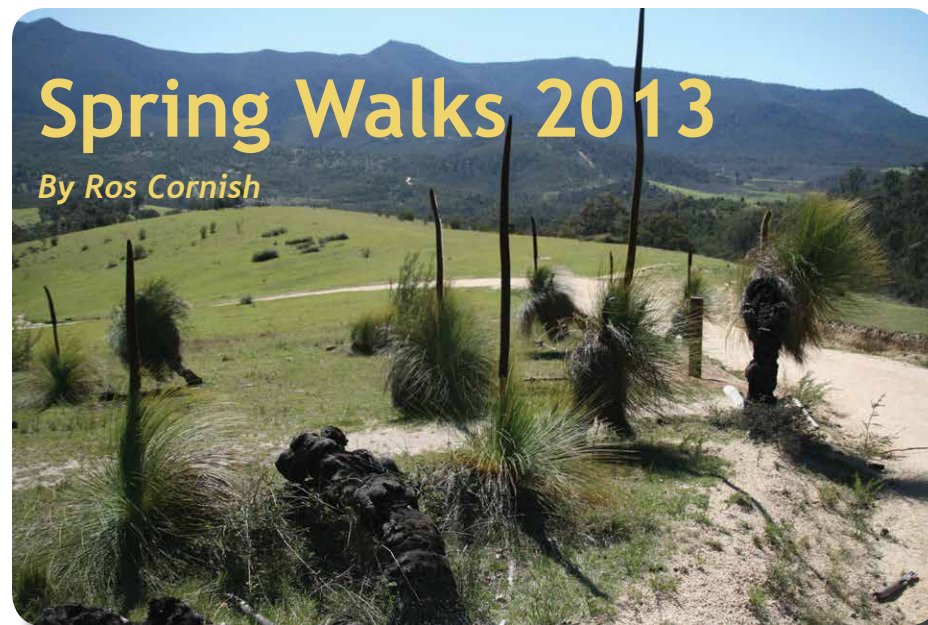
### Journal Editor

Gail Ritchie Knight  
1612 Sutton Road  
Sutton NSW 2620  
e-mail: [whirlwind@argonite.com.au](mailto:whirlwind@argonite.com.au)  
tel: 0416 097 500

Paid advertising is available in this Journal. Contact the Editor for details.

Society website: <http://nativeplants-canberra.asn.au>

Printed by Elect Printing, Fyshwick, ACT  
<http://www.electprinting.com.au/>



*Xanthorrhoea australis*, Gibraltar Peak; Photo: Linda Spinaze

We had a full program for spring 2013 with only one walk postponed because of adverse weather. We were lucky to be invited to three private properties — two were return visits and one was new, to which we hope we will be returning in autumn. We also walked in several new places including a newly created nature reserve near Goulburn. Overall it was a great spring with lots of good floral displays.

what was in the open area before then making our way along the fire trail which is mainly in forest. We had lunch in a moist gully before retracing our steps. It was a good start to spring with many wattles flowering — *Acacia dealbata*, *A. melanoxylon*, *A. gunnii*, *A. trachyphloia* and *A. brownii*. Also flowering well were *Epacris microphylla*, *Hardenbergia*

## Monga State Conservation Area

The Monga State Conservation Area (SCA) is accessed from Northanger Road not far from the township of Mongarlowe. We had visited in 2011 and decided to return to drive along the Narranghi fire trail. We stopped first just outside the SCA boundary to see



*Acacia trachyphloia*, Monga SCA; Photo: Jean Geue

*violacea*, *Hovea heterophylla*, *Patersonia sericea*, *Tetratheca bauerifolia*, *Mirbelia platylobioides*, *Leucopogon fraseri* and a few *Rhytidosporum procumbens*.



*Mirbelia platylobioides*, Monga SCA; Photo: Martin Butterfield

Special mention should be made of the large numbers of *Leucopogon lanceolatus* in full flower, giving off a very heady honey perfume. Other interesting plants were several patches of *Pomaderris elliptica* in bud, *Comesperma volubile* also in bud and we managed to go firm on the names of the puzzling peas from last time — *Podolobium ilicifolium*, *P. procumbens* and *Platylobium formosum*.

### Isaacs Ridge

Isaacs Ridge runs behind the suburbs of East O'Malley and Isaacs and is part of Canberra Nature Park. We began the walk from Callemonda Rise near the water tank, headed to the top of the ridge then walked south before looping back. There were many areas covered in weeds but some patches of good bushland. There were some wonderful trees, with many saplings — *Eucalyptus blakelyi*, *E. bridgesiana*, *E. melliodora*,

*E. polyanthemos*, *E. rossii* and *E. nortonii*. An interesting find was *Lomandra bracteata*, quite obvious with its ground-level, yellow flowers.



*Lomandra bracteata*, Isaacs Ridge; Photo: Jean Geue

There were quite a lot of *Wurmbea dioica* flowering, a sure sign of spring. Other interesting plants were *Allocasuarina verticillata*, *Acacia implexa* (some very old ones), *Isoetopsis graminifolia* (a daisy that looks like grass), one *Cryptandra amara*, several *Indigofera adesmiifolia*, *Cheilanthes distans* (as well as the usual *C. austrotenuifolia*) and a big patch of *Goodenia pinnatifida*. The views were stunning and well worth the trek up the hills.

### Cullulla Rd, Nadgigomar Nature Reserve (East), Claypit Rd & Willow Glen Rd

The main aim of the day was to walk from the locked gate on Mogo Road to the gas pipeline scar in Nadgigomar Nature Reserve — a new area for us. To get there we went via Bungendore, Tarago and Cullulla Road where we did our usual stop at the quarry site which continues to regenerate well. The endangered *Pomaderris delicata* was flowering beautifully. We continued on to Sandy Point Road, Oallen Ford

Road and then Mogo Road. We walked past the locked gate, keeping to the right-hand side, which is part of the Reserve. There were many flowers — *Mirbelia platylobioides*, *Aotus ericoides*, *Lomandra glauca*, *Leucopogon virgatus*, *Lissanthe strigosa*, *Philotheca salsolifolia*, *Tetratheca bauerifolia*, *Patersonia sericea*, *P. longifolia*, *Acacia brownii*, *A. gunnii*, *A. obtusata* (just finishing), *Petalochilus fuscatus*, *Diuris pardina* and *Exocarpos strictus* to name a few.



*Philotheca salsolifolia*, Nadgigomar Nature Reserve; Photo: Martin Butterfield

Other interesting plants were three banksia species (*B. marginata*, *B. spinulosa* and *B. paludosa*), *Persoonia mollis*, *P. microphylla* (some enormous plants) and one which kept us guessing until we reached the pipeline and found one flowering — *Conospermum taxifolium*.

Also in the pipeline scar were some spectacular *Leionema diosmeum* and *Chloanthes parviflora*.



*Leionema diosmeum*, Nadgigomar Nature Reserve; Photo: Roger Farrow

On the way back we called in to Claypit Road looking for *Bossiaea oligosperma*, a threatened plant only found in a couple of locations. We found the small population and there were still a few flowers but it was already forming seed pods.



*Bossiaea oligosperma*, Claypit Road;  
Photos: Jean Geue and Dave Herald (close-up))

Here we also finally saw what we'd been flashing past — good displays of the prostrate form of *Pultenaea microphylla* — and also a yellow prostrate form of *Grevillea juniperina*. Also flowering well were some *Dillwynia glauca* which is another rare and endangered pea. Then, onto Willow Glen Rd to do the pomaderris crawl, passing some floriferous *Pomaderris elliptica* en route. We saw *P. andromedifolia* (small leaved form), *P. lanigera*, *P. ledifolia* and *P. andromedifolia* ssp. *confusa*. Many were past their best but the flowering was pretty good and massed in parts.

## Woodstock Reserve

Woodstock Reserve is accessed from Fairlight Road, shortly after Uriarra Crossing. A vehicle track follows the Murrumbidgee River giving good views. The highlight was finding *Bossiaea grayi*, an endangered species. It is a flat-stemmed pea formerly known as *B. bracteosa* but after a good look at the flat-stemmed peas over the last few years, Keith McDougall (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service) has named four new species. We are already familiar with one — *B. bombayensis* — which we see at the Bombay Reserve on the Shoalhaven River. *B. grayi* is only known to occur in the ACT and is typically found in the riparian corridors of the Murrumbidgee River. We saw at least three healthy specimens, with many seed pods developing.



*Bossiaea grayi*, Woodstock Reserve;  
Photo: Martin Butterfield

Other highlights were five species of pomaderris, mostly flowering — in order of appearance, *P. eriocephala*, *P. subcapitata*, *P. angustifolia*, *P. betulina* ssp. *betulina* and *P. betulina* ssp. *actensis* — and *Gynatrix pulchella* in flower (many male plants but only one female). Other flowers were *Westringia eremicola*, *Correa*

*reflexa*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Thysanotus patersonii*, *Glossodia major*, *Petalochilus fuscatus*, *Glycine clandestina*, *Brachyloma daphnoides* — and many others. The views of the river and the cliff under Shepherd's Lookout were great.

## Gibraltar Peak

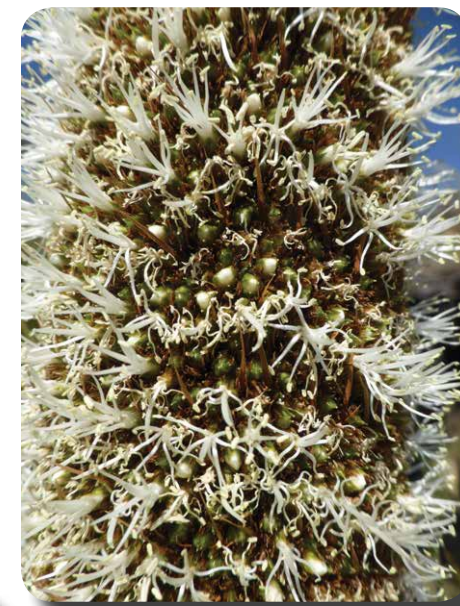
We tried the new route to Gibraltar Peak in Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and found it to be a very pleasant, moderate one. It meanders through some great country with some outstanding views. It was not particularly difficult until near the end (after the viewing platform) where there are some steepish steps and one slab of rock to get up but there is a convenient handrail. We reached the saddle by lunch time and some lunched closer to the peak. The views were fantastic. The return on the fire trail, while providing a few extra species for our list, was a bit hazardous as we were on "ball-bearing" granite and it was quite steep in parts. However, we all made it without incident.

We had very good displays of *Pomaderris andromedifolia* ssp. *andromedifolia* in full flower nearly the whole way. Also putting on a good show was *Olearia lirata* — many shrubs in full flower.



*Pomaderris andromedifolia* ssp. *andromedifolia*,  
Gibraltar Peak; Photo: Linda Spinaze

Other flowers, but not particularly in profusion were *Wurmbea dioica*, *Craspedia variabilis*, *Indigofera australis*, *Glossodia major*, *Petalochilus carneus*, *Ranunculus lappaceus*, *Pimelea pauciflora* (we hardly ever see this), *Viola betonicifolia* and *Hakea microcarpa*. The last part of the fire trail was very rewarding with many grass trees, some in full flower and sporting some unusual shapes. We won't leave it so long for a return visit but next time we'll return on the new track rather than the fire trail.



*Xanthorrhoea australis*, Gibraltar Peak;  
Photo: Martin Butterfield

## Meangora Road Property

We made a return visit to a private property off Meangora Road just south of Nerriga. We wandered down the road we walked on last trip, towards Morton National Park, but then went on a lovely meandering track where we experienced a number of different



*Kunzea parvifolia*,  
Meangora Road property;  
Photo: Roger Farrow

vegetation types and came out near the swamp. We added many new plants to our already substantial list. Many were flowering including *Kunzea parvifolia*, *Aotus ericoides*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *H. rufa*, *H. riparia*, *Patersonia longifolia*, *P. sericea*, *P. glabrata* (not in flower), *Tetratheca thymifolia*, *Isopogon anethifolius*, *I. anemonifolius*, *Hybanthus monopetalus* and orchids: *Diuris sulphurea*, *Petalochilus fuscatus*, *Stegostyla* sp., *Thelymitra simulata* and *Calochilus paludosus*.



*Isopogon anethifolius*, Meangora Road property;  
Photo: Roger Farrow



*Thelymitra simulata*, Meangora Road property;  
Photo: John Wilkes

## Chip N Dale Fire Trail

We accessed the Chip N Dale fire trail from private property on the Captains Flat Road. We drove first to the locked gate at the border with Yanununbeyan National Park. We had permission from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service to drive into the Park which we did after first having morning tea and exploring near the gate. We continued on to a high point, stopping a few times. It was extremely windy so we didn't venture too far. We saw an interesting array of plants, many in flower, and added about 20 new species to our long list for that area.

The highlight was the number of orchid species flowering, some in large numbers — *Stegostyla cucullata*, *S. moschata*, *Diuris sulphurea*, *Calochilus platytilus*, many *Thelymitra* in bud and one *Gastrodia sesamoides* in bud. There were also good displays of *Stackhousia monogyna*, *Daviesia leptophylla*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *Tetratheca bauerifolia*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Olearia lirata*, *O. erubescens*, *Choretrum pauciflorum*, *Indigofera australis*, *Eucalyptus dives*, *Bossiaea buxifolia*, *Brachyscome spathulata*, *Ranunculus lappaceus* and *Craspedia variabilis*. There were also male and female *Lomandra multiflora* flowers, one *Pomaderris phyllicifolia* ssp. *phyllicifolia* in bud and many *Cassinia longifolia* and *C. aculeata* in bud.

## Oallen Property

At the end of October, we were invited to a private property off Oallen Ford Road which borders the Shoalhaven River. We made one stop on the drive in where there was an interesting array of

plants including *Philotheca salsolifolia*, *Bossiaea heterophylla*, *Choretrum pauciflorum*, *Xanthorrhoea concava*, *Conospermum taxifolium*, *Persoonia mollis* ssp. *livens*, *Gompholobium minus*, *Hibbertia acicularis*, *Patersonia longifolia*, *Daviesia leptophylla* and *D. squarrosa*. After morning tea at the house site, we followed the powerline management track through dry woodland, making the occasional foray under the powerlines where the taller vegetation had been cleared. We saw good displays of *Ranunculus lappaceus*, *Goodenia hederacea*, *Coronidium scorpioides*, *C. oxylepis* ssp. *lanatum*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Hibbertia obtusifolia*, *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*, *Calotis scabiosifolia* var. *integrifolia*, *Pomaderris phyllicifolia* ssp. *phyllicifolia*, *Isopogon prostratus*, a number of *Lomandra* species, *Wahlenbergia stricta*, *Stylidium graminifolium*, *Pultenaea subspicata*, *Gompholobium minus* and *Dillwynia sericea* — even a pure yellow one. There were some good orchids — *Diuris sulphurea*, *Calochilus platytilus*, *C. paludosus*, *Caleana major* (many),



*Caleana major*, Oallen property; Photo: Roger Farrow

*Thelymitra* sp. and early buds of a *Dipodium* sp. Other interesting plants were *Bossiaea riparia* (a very upright form in large numbers), *Acacia hamiltoniana*, *A. uncinata*, *Pomaderris eriocephala* and *Olearia viscidula*. We are looking forward to a return visit in autumn.

## Glenloch Blocks and Aranda Bushland

The walk began from the car park near Glenloch Interchange. We headed north into an area which is being considered for adding to Aranda Bushland. It was mainly woodland with a diverse array of plants including good displays of *Leptorhynchus squamatus*, *Dillwynia sericea*, *Hibbertia riparia*, *H. obtusifolia*, *Pultenaea procumbens*, *Velleia paradoxa*, *Veronica perfoliata*, *Podolepis jaceoides*, *Xerochrysum viscosum*, *Chrysocephalum apiculatum*, *Craspedia variabilis* as well as a few flowers of *Grevillea alpina*, *Leucopogon virgatus*, *Brachyscome rigidula*, *Billardiera scandens*, *Diuris sulphurea*, *Coronidium oxylepis* ssp. *lanatum* — and the first fringe-lily, *Thysanotus tuberosus*. We then crossed into Aranda Bushland and did a short foray before returning via part of the Snow Gum to Forest Track. There were many similar plants to those already seen but extras were *Calytrix tetragona* and *Goodenia pinnatifida* — both flowering — and the fern *Pellaea falcata* which we don't see very often. Many of the grasses were starting to flower.

## Back Arm Nature Reserve

Back Arm Nature Reserve was created in 2010. It is about 30 kilometres north of Goulburn. We approached it via Back



*Calytrix tetragona*, Aranda Bushland; Photo: Graeme Kruse

Arm Road and entered at the north-eastern corner after trying to placate the neighbouring farmer. At this point the Reserve is quite heavily wooded with a sparse grassy understory and steep gullies running into creek lines. The trees were *Eucalyptus bridgesiana*, *E. dives*, *E. macrorhyncha*, *E. melliodora*, *E. rossii*, *E. rubida* and *E. viminalis* with large stands of *E. sieberi* (flowering) at the high point. The understory was mainly *Rytidosperma pallidum*, some *Poa labillardierei* and quite a few *Persoonia linearis*, as well as smaller plants such as *Rhytidosporum procumbens*, a narrow-leaved *Platysace lanceolata*, *Acacia gunnii*, *A. lanigera*, *A. terminalis*, *Daviesia latifolia*, *D. leptophylla*, *Hovea heterophylla*, and *Pimelea curviflora*. A highlight was seeing *Acacia falciformis* flowering. There were some other flowers: *Gompholobium huegelii*, *Coronidium scorpioides*, *Olearia microphylla*, *Goodenia hederacea*, *Dianella revoluta*, *R. procumbens* and a few orchids: buds of a *Dipodium* species, some *Diuris sulphurea*, several spent *Thelymitra* and some *Caleana major* and *C. minor*.



*Caleana minor*, Back Arm NR; Photo: Roger Farrow

## Granite Tors

This was a new walk for us. It begins at the old Orroral Valley tracking station car park, first crossing the floor of the valley then rising steeply up the ridge. The track then changes direction and follows a creek for a while before the final stretch to the incredible granite tors. The views to the valley are spectacular. There weren't many flowers to see initially but as we climbed higher we started seeing good displays and this allowed us to stop and catch our breath. *Ozothamnus thyrsoides* and *Pomaderris aspera* (one) were flowering in the start of the woodland and *Cassinia longifolia* and

*C. aculeata* were in good bud. We soon began to find many *Hibbertia obtusifolia* flowering — the usual grey form and some with very green foliage. We spotted some *Lotus australis* flowering then all the rest started — *Pultenaea procumbens*, *Brachyloma daphnoides*, *Daviesia mimosoides* (the perfume was incredible), *Olearia erubescens*, *Grevillea lanigera*, *Diuris sulphurea* and *D. semilunulata*, *Brachyscome spathulata*, *Clematis aristata*, *Acacia mearnsii*, *Epacris breviflora*, *Daviesia ulicifolia*, some *Thelymitra* (probably *T. arenaria*) and a few daisy bushes in bud — *Ozothamnus stirlingii*.



*Lotus australis*, Granite Tors; Photo: Roger Farrow



*Ozothamnus thyrsoides*, Granite Tors; Photo: Graeme Kruse



*Diuris sulphurea* (left) and *Diuris semilunulata* (right), Granite Tors; Photos: Graeme Kruse



*Clematis aristata*, Granite Tors; Photo: Graeme Kruse

## Piccadilly Circus Area and Drive Down Bendora Dam Rd

Our final walk for the year was really a drive in the Brindabellas. We began the day with a short walk in the Piccadilly Circus area, under the powerlines for a while before heading along a track into the wooded area. There were many lovely *Stylidium armeria* flowering, some *Tetratheca bauerifolia*, *Pimelea glauca*, *Olearia erubescens*, *Clematis aristata*, *Epacris breviflora*, *Stackhousia viminea*, *Oxylobium ellipticum*, *Daviesia ulicifolia* and many *D. mimosoides* still flowering and giving off their perfume. There were also carpets of *Goodenia hederacea* ssp. *alpestris* and a few *Viola hederacea*, *V. betonicifolia*, *Poranthera microphylla*,



*Tetratheca bauerifolia*, Piccadilly Circus; Photo: Jean Geue



*Oxylobium ellipticum*, Piccadilly Circus;  
Photo: Graeme Kruse

*Lagenophora gracilis*, *Pomaderris phyllicifolia* ssp. *ericoides* and *Ranunculus scapiger*. We found a few orchids — *Simpliglottis valida*, *Calochilus montanus*, *Stegostyla moschata* and *Diuris*



*Calochilus montanus*, Piccadilly Circus;  
Photo: Christine Kendrick

*monticola*. After lunch at Bulls Head, we drove down the Bendora Dam road and had many stops as we saw things of interest — *Euphrasia collina*, *Olearia megalophylla*, *Astrotricha ledifolia*, *Olearia lirata*, *Leptospermum brevipes*, *Bedfordia arborescens*, *Stackhousia monogyna*, *Prostanthera lasianthos*, *Veronica derwentiana*, *V. perfoliata* and *Melaleuca pallida*, all flowering well.



*Leptospermum brevipes*, Bendora Dam Road;  
Photo: Graeme Kruse

You can read a short description of our various walks, look at the list of plants we found and often, the birds and insects we spotted, as well as some photos in the Wednesday Walks section of the ANPS website — <http://nativeplants-canberra.asn.au>.

# Possumwood, *Quintinia sieberi*

## An enigmatic tree encountered in the Southern Highlands and Blue Mountains

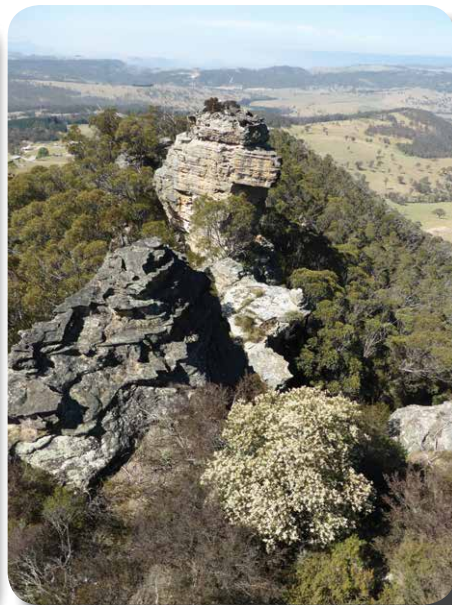
Words and photos by Roger Farrow

On our recent September field trip we visited Fitzroy Falls and went on the east rim walk. Looking down from the cliff top we saw patches of white through the canopy of eucalypts and with the aid of binoculars we saw a spectacular flower display from a rainforest tree. Further on the walk in a gully we could see a tree close-up covered with spike-like panicles of white flowers that I photographed.

I had no idea what the tree was and could not key it out so I sent the pictures around to various experts but to no avail until I contacted Denis Wilson, the Nature of Robertson, who has been on several walks with us. He immediately identified the tree as Possumwood, *Quintinia sieberi*. We then saw the same species growing in crevices at Hassan Walls at Lithgow on the next field trip.



At Fitzroy Falls



At Hassan Walls, Lithgow

This 'rainforest' tree is restricted to the top of the escarpment unlike most rainforest species which inhabit gullies down to the coast and it is found from Mt Dromedary to the Queensland border. According to a contributor to Wikipedia the wind-blown seeds often germinate in rock crevices and in the trunks of Dicksonia tree ferns as hemi-epiphytes. Here the seedlings are safe from herbivores such as wallabies. Alan Cunningham first described this habit in 1839 at Mt Tomah as a parasitical growth. In this respect the tree is similar to Pinkwood, *Eucryphia moorei*, that only grows from the trunks of tree-ferns at Penance Grove, Monga. Another characteristic of Possumwood is the presence of buttresses.

The derivation of the name possumwood was not ascertained although the tree is also known as corkwood which is not very useful as there are several different species of tree called 'corkwood'. The species was named by the Swiss botanist Auguste de Candolle (1778–1841) in 1830. The genus was named after John Baptist de La Quintinie (1626–1688), lawyer, gardener, agronomist and creator of the Garden of the King at Versailles. The specific name refers to the Bohemian botanist Franz Sieber (1789–1844), who collected the plant on a seven-month trip to Australia in 1823. Sieber became mentally deranged at 40 and was

confined to a mental asylum in Prague where he died aged 54 but his legacy lives on in the many plant names ascribed to him.

25 species of *Quintinia* occur in the Australasian region. The classification of *Quintinia* has had a chequered history but it has been most recently placed in the **Paracryphiaceae** in the molecular-based, Angiosperm Phylogeny Group system APG II and III. This family was erected for the monotypic Paracryphia, endemic to New Caledonia. Before this *Quintinia* had been successively placed in the gooseberry family, Grosulariaceae, the escallonia family, Escalloniaceae, and even its own family, Quintiniaceae, but its affinities remained an enigma until the molecular studies of the APG project were undertaken. Several specimens of *Q. sieberi* are planted in the Australian National Botanic Gardens.



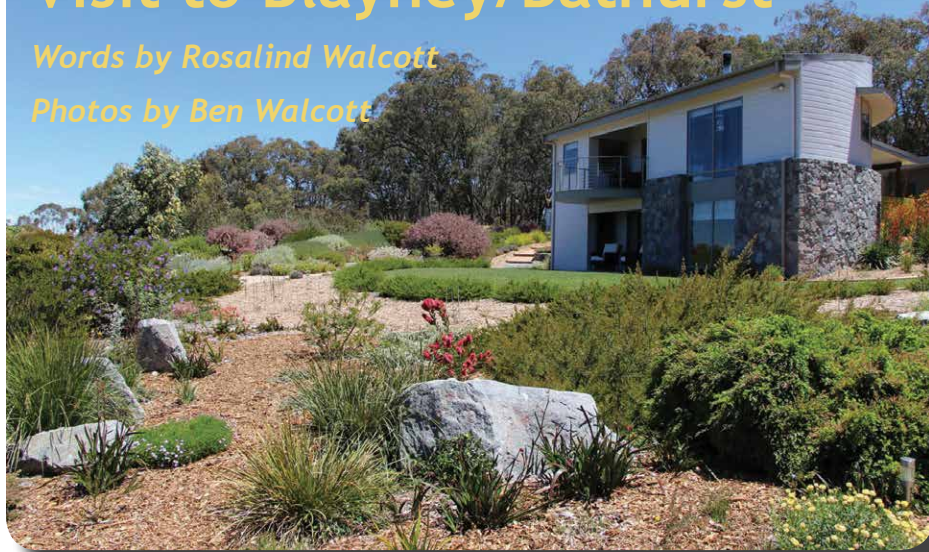
Unopened flowers in a panicle



# Visit to Blayney/Bathurst

Words by Rosalind Walcott

Photos by Ben Walcott



Front of house, Cloudy Hill garden

## Combined Canberra GDSG and Sydney GDSG Visit to Blayney/Bathurst

November 9-10, 2013

Fifteen members of the Garden Design Study Group gathered at Cloudy Hill, Fiona Johnson's and Alex Kruczaj's garden outside Blayney at noon on Saturday. The weather forecast for the weekend had not been promising, predicting rain on both days. But Saturday turned out to be a pleasantly cool and sunny day and the rain held off until we finished our visits on Sunday, so no complaints. Fiona and Alex provided us with a marvellous spread for lunch in their spacious (and very neat!) shed, then we set off to explore the garden. The house is situated just below the brow of the hill and the main part of the garden runs downhill

from the house. Fiona has planted many interesting plants in an intensive series of beds, with contrasting sized plants. We all commented on how beautifully the leptospermums were flowering.



*Leptospermum 'Fantasia'*, Cloudy Hill



Seat in garden, Cloudy Hill

The gravel paths were edged with many different types of daisy. *Acacia falciformis* or Mountain Hickory was in full flower and a magnet for insects. Alex has built some beautiful stone walls for the garden and also added some quirky metal artwork. Fiona has planted indigenous plants in some above-ground tanks to provide better drainage.

We next visited Eva and Gerd Wolf's garden near Millthorpe. The Wolfs had built their own house into a hill to take advantage of passive solar benefits. The garden was wrapped tightly around the house and was also on the roof of the house. The palette of plants was restricted, but those planted were thriving. There were some very old eucalypts surrounding the house, one dated at about 350 years old. Gerd had added much to the ambiance of the



Gerd's delightful ants

garden with his metal creations of insects and reptiles, dragonflies, butterflies and lizards, some on long stakes buried in the gardens.



Steps to the roof, Wolf garden



Swale behind the house, Rath garden



Up on the roof — note Gerd's artwork

Sunday morning we gathered at the home of Donna and Terry Rath at Mount Rankin, outside Bathurst. Donna is an enthusiastic booster of native plants and had recently opened her garden with the Bathurst Garden Club and welcomed over 300 visitors. Her garden sloped down from the road towards the house, with a very large swale above the house to catch any runoff and allow it to soak into the garden, rather than flood the house. The garden consisted of many interesting trees, including a magnificent Wollemi Pine (*Wollemia nobilis*) and a Queensland Bottle Tree (*Brachychiton rupestris*) and large island beds full of hakeas, banksias, native grasses and daisies. One bed was planted as a cottage garden filled with small colourful flowering natives. Stainless steel sculptures by Ulric Steiner are featured in this garden.



Sculpture by Ulric Steiner, Rath garden

The last garden we visited was that of Val and Colin Fenn in Duramana. This garden was really a bush garden, but with incredible additions of Colin's art in every part. Colin creates wood, metal and rock sculptures, pergolas, paths and everywhere your eye falls, there is a treasure load of art. The birds love this garden and were constantly flitting, bathing and singing everywhere.



Gathering around the workshop, Fenn garden



Colin's fantastical sculpture

Colin showed us his workroom, which was a fascinating jumble of materials and tools. Fiona and Val provided us with a slap-up morning tea to send us on

our way. This garden is full of wonderful eucalypts, acacias and the best stand of *Banksia robur* you could imagine. The stand was fortuitously in the runoff path to the dam and loved the extra water it received.

All these gardens were rural gardens, with space to spare and expansive views. It makes you realise how restricted we are in the city for garden space and how often we have cramped and tiny views (not that they are not precious!). All these gardens were filled with birds and artwork and felt relaxing with generous views and big skies.



From the terrace, Fenn garden



*Pelargonium inodorum*, Granite Tors; Photo: Roger Farrow

# A Plethora of Pomaderris: our local diversity hotspot

Words by Roger Farrow, Ros Cornish and Jo Walker

Photos by Roger Farrow

Some years ago Roger took his mother to Braidwood for her birthday in the middle of September and decided to take a short cut home via the Mulloon fire trail through the Gourock Range and Tallaganda State Forest, now a National Park. Turning a corner in the middle of the park he saw a hillside covered in yellow,

not from wattle flowers as he first thought, but from the flowers of a new shrub for him, Pomaderris, that has no vernacular name.

A few years later, in late September, the Wednesday Walkers returned from the Nadgigomar Nature Reserve at Mayfield via the Willow Glen Road, and found a swathe of yellow



*Pomaderris ledifolia*, Willow Glen Road, September 2012

along the roadside, again caused by a profusion of Pomaderris shrubs. This area is quite different from the open forest found along the Mulloon fire trail. Willow Glen Road was carved through the bush as part of a subdivision development exposing bare cuttings of gravel and rock.



*Pomaderris*, Willow Glen Road, September 2012

Meanwhile, Jo had been running the Rhamnaceae Study Group for some years, and, along with some local ANPS members including Ros, had been studying the local genera in the Family, namely, Pomaderris, Cryptandra and Discaria. They were very interested in Roger's finding and a Wednesday Walk was organised for the Mulloon fire trail. The Study Group also did separate trips to the Mulloon fire trail and Willow Glen Road and many Wednesday Walks in the Mayfield area included drives along Willow Glen Road to document what was there.

What we found was quite remarkable. Along the Mulloon fire

trail we found ten co-existing species (plus two subspecies) of Pomaderris over several visits, some abundant and some less so, extending all the way from Mulloon Creek to the Shoalhaven River at Bombay. A surprising find was a species which the Study Group only knew from the Bungonia area. It does not key out to a named species. Members of the Study Group had tried to identify it over a number of years and they provided samples to academics studying the genus. It has become known as *Pomaderris* sp. 'Bungonia' and is still undescribed.



*Pomaderris* sp. 'Bungonia' at Mulloon



*Pomaderris* sp. 'Bungonia' flowers

It is so abundant on parts of the Mulloon fire trail below Mt Palerang that we would like to see it eventually named to reflect that — *P. palerangensis* perhaps? The Table (on page 24) lists the species found along Mulloon Fire Trail, Willow Glen Road, local species and those found further afield.

Our group has traversed Willow Glen Road on a number of occasions in spring and we have identified six species and two sub-species of Pomaderris growing along the gravel banks of the road. Not far from Willow Glen Road on the Cullulla Road, several different Pomaderris species have colonised a steep gravel cutting that forms part of the Cullulla Quarry. The endangered *P. delicata* is found here with *P. ferruginea* and *P. andromedifolia*.



Cullulla Quarry cutting, September 2010



Cullulla cutting showing Pomaderris in flower, September 2013



*Pomaderris delicata*, Cullulla Road



*Pomaderris intermedia*, Black Mountain

Nearer to home, the Queanbeyan and Murrumbidgee valleys contain a range of Pomaderris species shown in column three of the table (on page 24), while Black Mountain is home to *P. intermedia* that has a spectacular flower display.

The Wallaby Track at Queanbeyan Cascades, Googong, contains four co-existing species, *P. angustifolia*, *P. betulina* subsp. *betulina*, *P. erioccephala* and *P. pallida*. *P. pallida* is a declared threatened species in NSW and is vulnerable under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999, although it is relatively common in

the area and we have found it to be abundant in a number of riverine locations in the ACT.

To the north of the ACT, Woodstock Reserve in the Murrumbidgee corridor is another place of high diversity with four species and two sub-species encountered: *P. angustifolia*, *P. betulina* subsp. *betulina*, *P. betulina* subsp. *actensis*, *P. erioccephala*, and *P. subcapitata*. *P. velutina* is recorded near Cotter on the Murrumbidgee and *P. prunifolia* from the Gudgenby River south of Tharwa but we have seen neither yet and the former record is unconfirmed although we have an unconfirmed

Locations of the Pomaderris of the local region					
<i>Pomaderris</i> Taxonomic Units	Mulloon	Willow Glen & Cullulla Roads	Local NSW & ACT	Further Afield	
<i>andromedifolia</i> subsp. <i>andromedifolia</i>	local	common	common		
<i>andromedifolia</i> subsp. <i>confusa</i>	local	local	local		
<i>angustifolia</i>			common		
<i>aspera</i>	local		common		
<i>betulina</i> subsp. <i>betulina</i>	common		common		
<i>betulina</i> subsp. <i>actensis</i>			local, Woodstock		
sp. 'Bungonia'	common			Bungonia	
<i>costata</i>	local				
<i>cotoneaster</i>				Tallong	
<i>delicata</i>		local			
<i>discolor</i>				Monga	
<i>elliptica</i>	local	common			
<i>eriocephala</i>			common		
<i>ferruginea</i>		local			
<i>helianthemifolia</i> subsp. <i>hispida</i>			local, Carwoola		
<i>intermedia</i>	local		local, Black Mtn		
<i>lanigera</i>		local			
<i>ledifolia</i>	local	common			
<i>parrisiae</i>				Badja	
<i>pallida</i>			common		
<i>pauciflora</i>	local				
<i>phylicifolia</i> subsp. <i>ericoides</i>			local, Tall, NNP	Wog Wog	
<i>phylicifolia</i> subsp. <i>phylicifolia</i>	local		local, Tall, Tinderry	Oallen	
<i>prunifolia</i>			local Gudgenby		
<i>subcapitata</i>			common		
<i>velutina</i>			local Cotter		
<i>virgata</i>				Tuross Falls	
<i>walshii</i>				Carrington Falls	
<b>Total</b>	<b>28 TU (25 species)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>
TU = Taxonomic Units Tall = Tallaganda NNP = Namadji National Park					

sighting of the latter near Tidbinbilla tracking station.

Further afield near Pikes Saddle at Big Badja and at Tuross Falls there are small populations of *P. parrisiae* and *P. virgata*, respectively, while along the Goulburn–Bungonia road there are populations of *P. sp.* 'Bungonia' and *P. delicata* that have a dedicated reserve. At Badgery's Lookout near Tallong, on the sandstone escarpment, there is a small population of the endangered *P. cotoneaster*. Nearby at Carrington Falls another endangered species *P. walshii* is found among other species of Pomaderris.

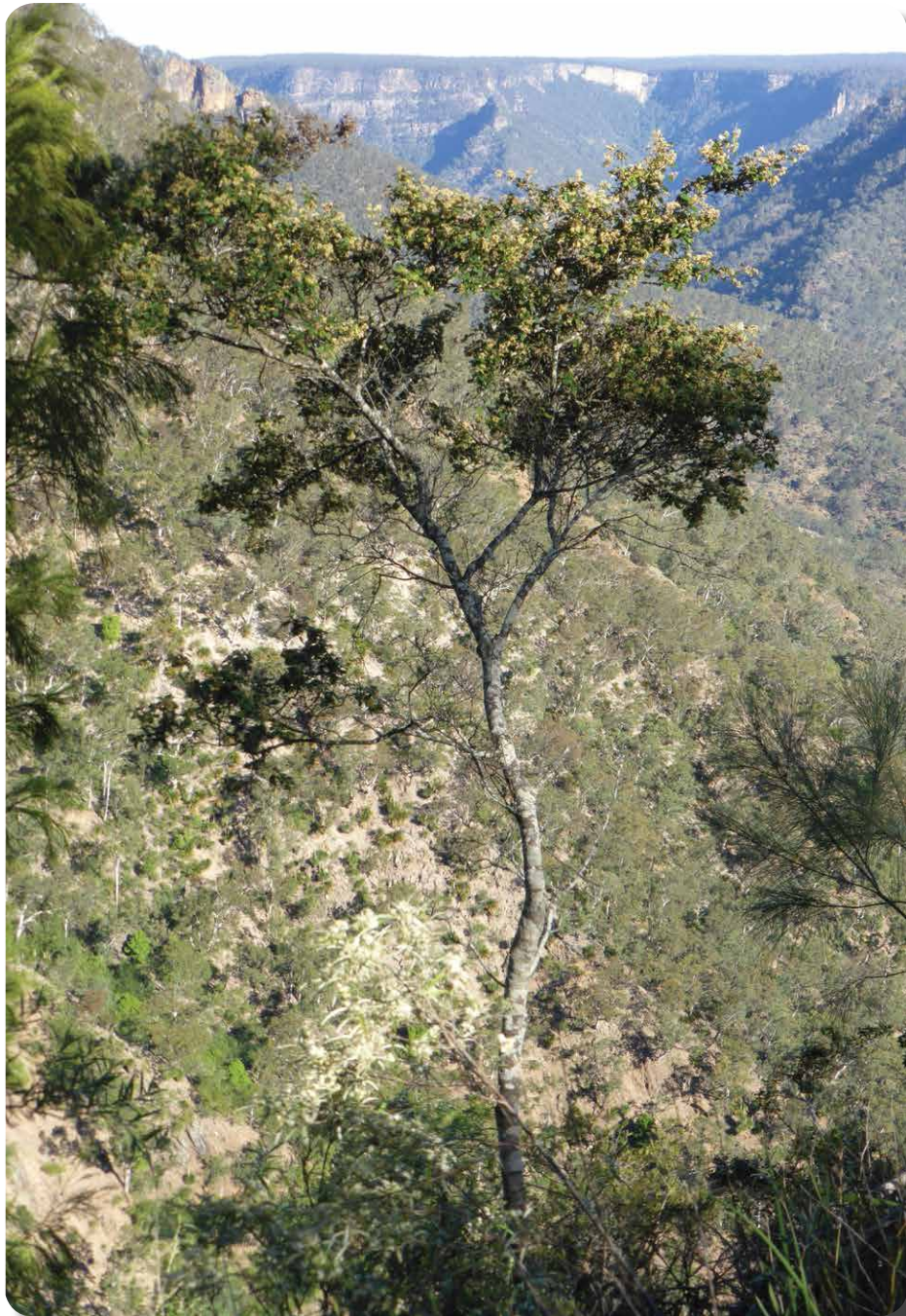
On the Corn Trail near Monga *P. discolor* is present. Many more species are found to the east of the ranges in coastal forests and are excluded from this article.

Following the 2003 fires in the ACT many trees in the woodland and forest were killed and much of the topsoil was either burnt or subsequently washed away by heavy rain. Many shrubs germinated on the bare ground, including several species of Pomaderris, and dense thickets of species such as *P. betulina* have emerged in areas like Corin Dam Road, the Cotter, the Murrumbidgee River corridor and parts of Namadji National Park and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve. Similarly, the removal of topsoil and exposure of the gravel subsoil along the Cullula

and Willow Glen Roads has led to the simultaneous germination of Pomaderris species already present in low numbers in the adjacent bush. Consequently many Pomaderris species are now more abundant and visible than in the past and have been shown to be efficient pioneers of disturbed ground.

The flower displays of many species of Pomaderris can be very spectacular in spring and the persistent buds and the seed capsules are also attractive at other times of the year. So it is surprising that they are not found more often in native gardens. They are exceedingly drought-tolerant and easy to grow from seed and cuttings. Given some supplementary watering in dry conditions they will keep their lush green foliage over summer in native gardens and this gives them a superficial resemblance to deciduous shrubs of the northern hemisphere. They also respond well to pruning after flowering and can be kept bushy.

Some species can be fairly nondescript for part of the year and that may account for their lack of popularity in the native garden. In the wild the species vary in size from single-trunked, small trees such as *P. cotoneaster* (shown on the following page), *P. costata* and *P. parrisiae*, to multi-branched shrubs such as *P. betulina* (shown on page 27), *P. eriocephala*, *P. angustifolia* and many others. Their leaves vary



*Pomaderris cotoneaster*, Badgery's Lookout, Tallong



*Pomaderris betulina* thicket along the Kambah Pool Walking Track

from large and floppy (*P. aspera*) to small and narrow (*P. angustifolia* and *P. phyllicifolia*) and have distinctive patterns of veins and hairs that assist identification.

There are 66 described species of *Pomaderris* in Australia, according to the Royal Botanic Gardens of Victoria website, with one species yet to be named in our area and they are found in all states except the Northern Territory. 25 of these have been found locally so far, namely 38% of the known Australian species, a value that is arguably higher than any other multi-species genus. In addition we have six sub-species

present in three species so we can rightly claim that our area of the ACT and adjacent Southern Tablelands and Southern Highlands is a hotspot for *Pomaderris* diversity.



*Solanum cinereum*, Isaacs Ridge; Dave Herald

# A Story about Yetholme

Words and photo by Shirley Pipitone

*Dillwynia* sp Yetholme mentioned by Ros Cornish (*ANPS Canberra Journal* Dec 2013, p1) brought back memories! In the 50 years since I left Yetholme to go to The Australian National University at the tender age of 16, I have discovered only about three people who knew where Yetholme is and also how to pronounce it! “**Yet** home” is the pronunciation for this tiny settlement — still not really a village — about 20 km from Bathurst on the Great Western Highway. Most of the Yetholme I knew is actually off the current highway and on Yetholme Road which was the route of the old highway.

Early last year I visited Yetholme to try and locate some of the bush I remember, which is the bush on top of the last mountain range before Bathurst. Where I lived was about 400m from a trig station 1300m above sea level. Our apple and pear orchard was a little lower than that but we still had an average of 600mm depth of snow every year. People currently living in that high area of Yetholme can't remember the last time snow settled for a few days.

My mother's beautiful garden, full of rhododendrons and camellias, is now much neglected. If I had another life I would buy back the house block and bring the high altitude local bush to her garden!

“My” bush was almost closed canopy wet forest, possibly rainforest. Ferns, wombats and possums were abundant but I had no-one to talk to about Australian plants at that time and the word ecosystem had not yet been coined.

Last year I found very little evidence of anything other than ordinary dry sclerophyll forest except for a few ground ferns and other tiny plants in the two metres each side of a forest track.

Pine forest started to take over the bush in 1957 and my environmental awareness was awakened as I grieved the huge uprooted eucalypts. Again, no-one to talk to so I wrote poetry instead. My father believed in the “useless scrub” dictum current at the time, pine forests provided employment (most Australian governments are still playing from that same score!) and who was to stand in the face of “progress”!



Yetholme — View from the edge of the pine forest; Photo: Shirley Pipitone

Yetholme is currently a sparse dormitory settlement for Bathurst — too far away to be called a suburb. What a waste of that beautiful bush and also some of the richest soil in Australia!

I plan to visit Yetholme again early this year to see some Open Gardens, no significant presence of native plants unfortunately, but I will also get back to my bush and allow more time to search for remnants. Watch this space.

## Correction

On page six of the previous issue (*Journal* Vol.17 no.8) some plants were incorrectly spelt. Following is the corrected text.

‘Thus far I have identified 15 species in the DB as being shown as threatened in one or more of those sources: *Dampiera fusca*; *Dillwynia glaucula*; *Diuris pedunculata*; *Dodonaea procumbens*; *Lepidium hyssopifolium*; *Leucochrysum albicans* var. *tricolor*; *Muehlenbeckia tuggeranong*, *Olearia montana*; *Pimelea axiflora*; *Pomaderris delicata*; *Pomaderris pallida*; *Rulingia prostrata*; *Rutidosis leptorrhynchoides*; *Swainsona recta*; *Swainsona sericea*. In addition *Bossiaea grayi* has been recorded on a WW but not yet input to the DB.’

And on page eight of the same issue, the caption incorrectly stated ‘Lake Mopgo’. It should read ‘Lake Mungo’.

Text was correct when submitted by the authors. A sub-editor incurred the errors. The editor apologises and will no longer utilise the pre-press services of the sub-editor.



# Eremophila crawl in South Australia



Ken Warne's farm-based Eremophila plantation, outside Owen, South Australia

Words and photos by Lyndal Thorburn

In September 2013 Tom Jordan and I joined in an Eremophila Study Group South Australian event centred on Owen and Dutton in South Australia (SA).

About 30 people joined in the weekend, including six of us from Canberra/Queanbeyan and the south coast of NSW. We began our weekend on Friday at the Arid Lands Nursery at Port Augusta, where we drove after flying to Adelaide.

It was a fabulous experience, apart from the millions of bush flies!

At Port Augusta one of the highlights was the Sturt's Desert Pea in the area in front of the visitors' centre.



Sturts Desert Pea at the front of the Visitors' Centre at the Arid Lands Botanic Garden, Port Augusta



*Acacia papyrocarpa* (Western Myall); Photo: Tom Jordan

Other highlights included the *Acacia papyrocarpa* (Western Myall) which was ENORMOUS, the stunning *Eremophila oppositifolia* and *E. youngii* subsp. *lepidota* in full flower (the latter two both well over two metres high).



*Eremophila oppositifolia* subsp. *oppositifolia*



*Eremophila youngii* subsp. *lepidota*

We stayed at Clare overnight, which was delightful, and met the rest of the group at Owen on Saturday morning. Apart from those of us from the east coast, others had travelled from Adelaide, the Yorke Peninsula and the Para Hills region of SA. We were first treated to a guide of naturally occurring *Eremophila* hybrids by Ken Warne, who is a stalwart of those introducing *Eremophila* into horticulture. We then attended a grafting lesson by Keith Pitman, who is from Cockatoo Valley. Keith has discovered and grafted a cream form of *Grevillea lavandulacea*. He is a former grower of Australian native plants for the cut flower trade.

After lunch we headed off to Ken Warnes' place in Owen and then to his farm outside Owen where we wandered around his old and new *Eremophila*

plantations (which also contained a smattering of *Dodonaea*, *Hakea* and a few — quite a few — other spp). Many of Ken's plants are featured in the Boschen *et al* book of *Eremophilas*.



*Grevillea lavandulacea* cream form, grafted by Keith Pitman

On Saturday night we listened to a great talk by Professor Hans Greisser who is researching the use of *Eremophila* as antibiotics. His work aims to develop new anti-microbials that could be used to coat implanted medical devices, such as artificial hips and knees, to reduce the high rates of infection that result in poor outcomes for many patients. There was also some discussion about the high levels of "cyanogenic glycosides" in *Eremophila maculata*. This converts to prussic acid when attacked by insects and may also poison domestic ruminants (sheep and cattle) if they eat it.

On Sunday morning all met in Nurioopta for the short drive to Bev and Ian Rice's farm outside Dutton. Around the farmhouse is a spectacular garden with *Eremophila* used to great effect in pots and throughout the garden. Bev's soil

has a lot of clay and she brings in sand and gypsum to lighten it to grow her plants.

The garden had so many *Eremophila* in flower it was hard to know where to look, but we were particularly impressed by the use of *E. drummondii* as a low growing border for the drive; and the potted (and grafted) *E. cuneifolia* and *E. mirabilis* in tubs.

There was also a four-metre high *Grevillea* Winpara Gold and many other species in flower.

I came home with a renewed interest in grafting, having picked up some useful tips about sterilisation from Keith Pitman (using methylated spirits) and from Phil Trickett (ex-Canberra, now south coast, using bleach).



*Eremophilas* in Ken Warnes' garden in Owen, SA



*Eremophila drummondii* used as a driveway border, backed by *Eremophila maculata* and other species



Grafted pot plants of *Eremophila cuneifolia* and *Eremophila mirabilis*



*Eremophila psilocalyx* in Bev Rice's garden, Dutton



*Grevillea Winpara Gold* in Bev Rice's garden, Dutton

Our thanks to the SA group for all their work on the planning, keeping us fed and watered, and their generosity in sharing propagation material. We brought home a lot of cutting material that will be tested locally and perhaps, once proven, released through ANPS Canberra bi-annual sales.

## Study Group Notes

By Lesley Page, Study Group Liaison Officer, ANPS Canberra Region

Gwen Elliot of the **Epacris Study Group** is looking for a new Leader.

Leaders have been writing about the ANPSA conference last year, bushfires in the Blue Mountains and the lack of rain.

**Grevillea Study Group** Newsletter No. 96 October 2013

- Flame spider-flower (*Grevillea kennedyana*) recovery plan
- The search for *Grevillea lanigera* on the Monaro
- Flood damage to *Grevillea wilkinsonii*
- *Grevillea lanigera* at Green Cape and Nadgee Nature Reserve, NSW
- Seed germination in the rare shrub *Grevillea kennedyana*

And more.....

**Waratah and Flannel Flower Study Group** Newsletter No. 6 December 2013

- Leader Maria Hitchcock writes about starting a seedbank
- From the members
- Growing waratahs from seed
- Red waratahs anyone? *Telopea* 'Corroboree'
- *Actinotus gibbonsii*
- *Telopea oreades*
- Checklist of *Telopea* species and varieties

- Checklist of *Actinotus* species and varieties

**The Chef's Cap** Newsletter of the Friends of Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens January 2014

- President's Report — five-year strategic plan for the Gardens, extension and renovation of the Visitors Centre
- Life at the Gardens — Photographic exhibition opened by Heide Smith. Heide gave some hints to all who are interested in nature photography.
- Human bower birds
- Vale Alison Baird
- A close look at *Brachychiton populneus*

**Australian Plants Society South East NSW Group** Newsletter No. 98 December 2013

- Next meeting — Saturday 1 March 2014 at 10.30am. Venue to be decided.
- Jennifer Liney describes *Commelina cyanea*
- Driveway beds by Leigh Murray
- Save Our Flora!
- Thomasia for the garden by John Knight
- Visit to Horse Island

**Acacia Study Group** Newsletter No. 123  
December 2013

- From the Leader: reminder about the field trip to Barakula Forestry area of Queensland in August. Register your interest if you would like to go.
- From members and readers
- Save Our Flora!
- Tasmanian bushland garden
- Article on Olive Pink Botanic Garden
- Description of *Acacia murrayana*
- Victoria Tanner writes — Acacias (Australian) — Not Welcome in South Africa
- Two new species, *Acacia alaticaulis* and *A. kulnurensis*
- Late flowering wattles
- Acacias in the news

**Wallum and Coastal Heathland Study Group** Newsletter No. 36 November 2013

- Letter from the Leader — 21<sup>st</sup> birthday
- Activities — past and future
- ANPSA bus trips to Sunshine Coast Wallum — beautiful photos

**Garden Design Study Group** Newsletter No. 84 November 2013

- Small Garden Areas — interesting comments by Diana Snape
- Soils Ain't Soils and Plant Selection by Jeff Howes
- The Answer Lies in the Soil by Pam Yarra
- Hardenbergia Season by Maree McCarthy
- Resurrection in a Native Garden by Ben Walcott

**Hakea Study Group** Newsletter No. 53  
October 2013

- Letter from the Leader Paul Kennedy
- Suggested Hakea crawl in September 2014 Western Australia
- Letters from members
- What pollinates Hakeas?
- Photos taken by Hana Chlovija from Western Australia

**Epacris Study Group** Newsletter No. 36  
Spring 2013

- Epistle from Leader Gwen Elliot
- Vale Jeff Irons
- Profile of *Epacris myrtifolia*
- Report on determining the pollinators of rare and endangered Epacris species: implications for conservation
- The Australian Flora Foundation — outlining its purpose
- Recording the flowering times of Epacris species

Till next time.



*Eucalyptus gummitera*; Drawing by Lesley Page

**Australian Native Plants Society, Canberra Region Inc.**

The aims of the Society are to foster the recognition, conservation and cultivation of Australian native plants.

Meetings are held at 8pm on the second Thursday of each month, February to December, in Canberra. Visitors are always welcome.

Day and weekend field trips to locations of outstanding botanical interest are organised on a regular basis.

The Society publishes a Bulletin in all months except January, and this quarterly Journal in March, June, September and December.

Website: [nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](http://nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

**Council**

**President**

Neville Page  
02 6238 1766  
[president@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:president@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

**Vice President**

Paul Carmen  
0447 603 309  
[v.president@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:v.president@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

**Secretary**

John Robertson  
02 6251 6525  
[secretary@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:secretary@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

**Treasurer**

Masumi Robertson  
02 6251 6525  
[treasurer@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

**Assistant Secretary/Treasurer**

Vacant

**Other Council Members**

Murray Dadds  
Philip Fradd  
Jeanette Jeffery  
Julie Lindner  
Nola McKeon  
Alison Roach

**Membership Fees**

Single or family memberships are the same price.

Basic membership including Bulletin and Journal — \$35 (\$20\*)

Full membership including Bulletin, Journal and Australian Plants — \$50 (\$36\*)

Life member subscribing to Australian Plants — \$15

\* Concession rates apply to pensioners (Centrelink), full-time students and unemployed.

Membership Secretary: Masumi Robertson 6251 6525  
[membership@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:membership@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

**Other useful contacts**

**Bulletin Editor**

Paul Carmen  
Box 6094, Mawson ACT 2607  
0447 603 309  
[bulletin@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au](mailto:bulletin@nativeplants-canberra.asn.au)

**Study Group Liaison Officer**

Lesley Page  
[lespage@bigpond.com](mailto:lespage@bigpond.com)

**Propagation aid sales**

Glenn Pure  
66 Crozier Circuit, Kambah ACT 2902  
02 6231 6457

**Booksales**

Murray Dadds  
43 MacLaurin Cres, CHIFLEY ACT 2606  
02 6281 6065; 0404 870 447  
[daddsm@bigpond.com](mailto:daddsm@bigpond.com)

**Public Officer**

(for Associations Incorporation Act purposes)  
Paul Meier  
7 Robert Lewis Crescent, Gordon ACT 2906  
6294 6601 (h)

**All Society correspondence to**

The Secretary  
ANPS Canberra Region (Inc), PO Box 217  
Civic Square ACT 2608

**Back cover:** *Banksia spinulosa*; Photo: Glenn Pure

